

U.S. Seal

by Katie Clark

If you have ever seen a one-dollar bill then you have probably seen the U.S. Seal. This is a symbol that is used on many official documents of the United States of America. It is featured on the one-dollar bill.



The U.S. Seal has been used on passports, foreign treaties, flags, and many other official documents of the American government.

There are two sides to the seal. The front side, what is called the American side, is decorated with thirteen stars. The eagle carries thirteen arrows in its talons. These things represent peace and war.

Above the eagle's head is a scroll. The scroll has a special message. It is a reference to many of the original thirteen colonies.

The back side of the seal is called the reverse side. It has a pyramid, and at the top of the pyramid is an eye. A special year is printed at the bottom of the pyramid. The special year is MDCCLXXVI, which is 1776 in Roman numerals.

The pyramid is unfinished, and the eye at the top represents the Eye of Providence. A message above the eye says *Annuit coeptis*, which means "favors our undertakings."

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At the bottom of the seal it says *Novus ordo seclorum*. This means "a new order of the ages."

These special images and messages show us what the founding fathers were thinking when they founded the country. In fact, they are the ones who created the U.S. Seal.

Three men were originally put in charge of this mission. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin were given the job of designing an official national seal. At this time in history, they had to choose the type of symbol to show their official support.

The men worked for a long time before the seal was finally approved. They had to make many changes. In 1782, the United States Congress at last approved an official seal. This original Seal was used until 1841, when a new seal was created.

The U.S. Seal has been used on many occasions, and many other items throughout American history. America is a sovereign nation.

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- 1) What is the author's main intention in writing the passage?
 - a) To provide detailed information about the U.S. Seal
 - b) To clarify why such prolific detailing was required while designing the Seal
 - c) To tell which leaders helped design the U.S. Seal.
 - d) To prove that the U.S. Seal is as profound as any country's.

2) Why was it necessary to include the text, on which

items as mentioned in

3) Write about the

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4) Why do you think the year 1776 is special? Think and answer.

5) Describe the obverse side of the U.S. Seal.

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